

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Vaughn (US 4,977,422). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 7, 9 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vaughn. This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

The present application is directed toward an apparatus for washing substances from a coated surface of a material. The apparatus comprises at least one inclined substantially planar surface upon which the material is passed. An inlet is provided at the upper part of the surface for the introduction of wash solution and pressure supplying means is provided for holding the material in full contact with the planar surface.

Vaughn discloses a completely different apparatus. The apparatus disclosed allows a photosensitive material to be developed to control the contrast characteristics of the silver layers in the material. The apparatus can modify the contrast level of any photosensitive material.

In the apparatus disclosed in Vaughn, the material does not travel up the inclined planar surface. The material travels down the surface with the emulsion side facing upwards towards the mesh assembly.

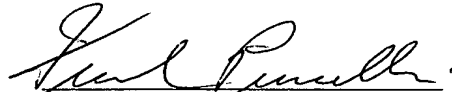
The Examiner has stated that the mesh assembly provides full contact pressure to the material in each processing stage. There is nothing in the specification to suggest that the mesh assembly provides any contact pressure. The mesh assembly is for the application of processing liquid to the surface of the material see, for example, col. 6 lines 49 to 51. It is therefore a source of the processing liquid. The material is said to "pass through" the mesh assemblies. This cannot be taken as the assembly holding the material in full contact with the planar surface. It is also stated throughout the specification that there are infeed edges shaped to guide the material into contact with the mesh assembly. Again this does not disclose nor suggest a pressure supplying means.

Applicants submit that Vaughn reference does not disclose all the features required by claim 1 and claim 11 of the present application. For the reasons set out above, claims 1 and 11 of the present application should be allowed over Vaughn.

Claims 2 to 10 and 12 to 15 are dependent on claims 1 and 11 respectively. They therefore include all the features of these claims. For the same reasons as set out above, claims 2 to 10 and 12 to 15 of the present invention should be allowed.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims in their present form are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank Pincelli", written in dark ink.

Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 27,370

Frank Pincelli/phw
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: (716) 588-2728
Facsimile: (716) 477-4646